

MARCH 13, 1976

THE U.S. FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE

ANNCR: NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN SEES THE CURRENT FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE AS A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN ISSUE BUT HAVING MUCH WIDER IMPLICATIONS THAN THAT.

VOICE: IN A DEMOCRACY SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES ARE WORKED OUT THROUGH PUBLIC DEBATE BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION IN POWER AND ITS OPPONENTS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY EVIDENT IN POLITICAL YEARS SUCH AS THIS ONE, IN WHICH PRESIDENT FORD'S FOREIGN POLICY IS BEING CHALLENGED BY FORMER GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN OF CALIFORNIA WHO IS SEEKING THE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY AND SEVERAL DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES COMPETING FOR THE NOMINATION OF THEIR OWN PARTY--PARTICULARLY SENATOR HENRY JACKSON.

PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER THIS WEEK MET THOSE CHALLENGES HEAD-ON. BOTH MEN ARTICULATED THEIR PERCEPTION OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY IN WHAT COMES DOWN TO A SIMPLE FORMULA--PRESIDENT FORD EXPRESSED IT AS A POLICY OF WORLD PEACE THROUGH A STRONG AMERICA. AND SECRETARY KISSINGER UNDERLINED THAT SUCH STRENGTH MUST FLOW FROM THE UNITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN THE EXECUTION OF SUCH A POLICY BY ANY ADMINISTRATION.

IN AN ADDRESS FRIDAY TO THE CHICAGO COUNCIL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESIDENT FORD OUTLINED HIS THESIS IN THESE WORDS: "PEACE AND STRENGTH ARE PART OF A SINGLE POLICY--TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN." AMERICA, THE PRESIDENT WAS SAYING, MUST USE A STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE AS WHAT HE CALLED "AN INSURANCE POLICY" FOR PEACE. THE JOB FACING AMERICA, AS THE PRESIDENT SEES IT, IS A DUAL ONE. ON THE ONE HAND, THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED BY TRADITION, BY ITS NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS, AND ITS OBLIGATIONS TO ITS ALLIES TO PROMOTE AND DEFEND THE IDEALS ON WHICH

THIS NATION WAS FOUNDED. AT THE SAME TIME, AMERICA MUST SEEK TO REDUCE, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, TENSIONS AND CONFRONTATIONS WITH WHAT HE CALLED A "POWERFUL ADVERSARY...WHOSE PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES ARE FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT FROM OURS."

SECRETARY KISSINGER ON THURSDAY ADDRESSED THE BOSTON WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL IN TERMS SOMEWHAT SIMILAR TO THE PRESIDENT'S BUT WIDER-RANGING IN TERMS OF ACHIEVING NATIONAL STRENGTH THROUGH UNITY ON FOREIGN POLICY. AS HE SEES IT, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERLINE THE BASIC MESSAGE THAT ALL CANDIDATES MUST CARRY NOT ONLY TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, BUT TO THE WORLD. AS SECRETARY KISSINGER EXPRESSED IT, THAT MESSAGE IS ONE OF FAITH IN AMERICA'S STRENGTH AND THAT IT IS AT PEACE; THAT THERE ARE NO EASY OR FINAL ANSWERS TO THE PROBLEMS THE NATION FACES; THAT WHAT IS ATTAINABLE AT ANY ONE MOMENT INEVITABLY WILL FALL SHORT OF THE IDEAL, AND THAT THE REACH OF AMERICAN POWER AND PURPOSE HAS ITS LIMITS. BUT NEVERTHELESS, DOCTOR KISSINGER DECLARED, "WE HAVE THE STRENGTH TO DEFEND OUR INTERESTS AND THE CONVICTION TO UPHOLD OUR VALUES" THROUGH A LONG-TERM AND RESPONSIBLE FOREIGN POLICY.

IN SUM, THE CENTRAL POINT OF BOTH THE PRESIDENT'S AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S ADDRESSES IS THIS: LET NO ONE--FRIEND OR POTENTIAL ADVERSARY--MISREAD THE UNDERLYING MEANING OF THIS YEAR'S POLITICAL DEBATES ON FOREIGN POLICY. FOR ALL SIDES IN THE DEBATE PURSUE THE SAME AIM--TO MAINTAIN AMERICA'S LEADERSHIP IN A TROUBLED WORLD. THE ONLY DIFFERENCES ARE AS TO EMPHASIS OR METHOD.

THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY SUPPORTS THIS PERCEPTION WITH ITS CONTINUOUS THREAD OF PURSUING WORLD PEACE THROUGH POLICIES THAT ARE A HEALTHY MIX OF PRAGMATISM AND IDEALISM.

THE PRESIDENT ARTICULATED THIS CONCEPT WHEN HE SAID: "I WENT TO EUROPE TO SAY TO THE LEADERS...OF THIRTY-THREE EUROPEAN NATIONS--EAST AND WEST--THAT THE DESCENDANTS OF EUROPEANS IN AMERICA STILL LIVE BY THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH HERE TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO--THAT ALL MEN--NOT JUST AMERICANS, BUT ALL MEN AND WOMEN EVERYWHERE--ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH INALIENABLE RIGHTS TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS." AMERICANS, THE PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED, CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IN THOSE PRINCIPLES WHICH ARE THE GUIDE-LINES OF THEIR NATIONAL POLICY. IT IS THIS FIRM BELIEF BY AMERICANS IN THOSE PRINCIPLES, MISTER FORD DECLARED, THAT CONTINUES TO GIVE HOPE TO MILLIONS OF LIBERTY-LOVING EUROPEANS AND OTHERS AROUND THE WORLD.